

Claims 1 through 21 (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A method of forming an ID kit comprising a device [card] for identifying a missing subject comprising the steps of:
- providing a means for interfacing with a portable electronic storage medium;
 - forming personal information about said subject on said portable storage medium;
 - forming unique identifying indicia of said subject on said portable storage medium;
 - forming a software program on said portable storage medium that will function as a kit which is independent of said means for interfacing.
23. (original) The method as set forth in claim 22 wherein said identifying indicia includes at least one of a personal information field, a photo, a streaming video, a voice recording, and fingerprints.
24. (original) The method as set forth in claim 23 wherein the means for interfacing with said storage medium contains a memory of a computer.
25. (original) The method as set forth in claim 23 wherein the storage medium includes at least one of a CD-ROM, a compact disk, a mini disk, a smart card, or any other electronic storage medium.
26. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 24 including the [fail-safe] step of [~~erasing~~]purging said identifying indicia from said memory.
27. (original) The method as set forth in claim 25 wherein selected portions of said identifying indicia is encrypted.
28. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 27 wherein said [portable electronic storage medium]kit is given to an entity having legal custody of said subject.

29. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 27 wherein a [decryption key] means for decryption is provided to an appropriate authority and held independent of said entity having legal custody for [disbursement]deployment of portions of said indicia should the subject go missing.
30. (original) The method as set forth in claim 27 wherein the encrypted indicia includes at least one of; fingerprints, date of birth, social security number, residence, and medical conditions.
31. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein said ID device includes a program to update contents of said [storage medium]kit.
32. (currently amended) A method for providing a kit containing personal information to an appropriate authority for use in locating a missing subject, comprising the steps of;
- storing on an electronic storage medium unique identifying indicia of the subject including at least one of a photo, a streaming video, and a voice recording of the subject;
 - retaining the storage medium separate from the subject and separate from a centralized [storage facility]data base; and,
 - utilizing the storage medium to deliver the indicia to the authority should the subject go missing.
33. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 32 wherein the identifying indicia include at least one of fingerprints, date of birth, social security number, residence, and medical conditions of the subject, and including the additional steps of:
- providing a means for encrypting selected portions of the identifying indicia; and,
 - providing the authority with a means for decrypting said identifying indicia[decryption key].

34. (currently amended) A method for providing a kit containing personal information to a third entity for use in locating a missing subject, comprising the steps of;
- storing digital physical indicia of the subject on an electronic storage medium in [the]a data format for direct computer dissemination;
 - encrypting portions of the data;
 - giving possession of the storage medium to a second entity which is separate from, but associated with, the subject;
 - providing a third entity, with no prior association with the subject or the second entity, with a decryption key in advance of dissemination; and,
 - utilizing the electronic storage medium to deliver the data to the third entity.
35. (currently amended) An apparatus for enrolling identification data for production of an ID kit[card] of a subject which does not require a centralized data base for use, comprising;
- a means for entering personal information and identifying indicia of said subject;
 - a camera for recording picture images of said subject; and,
 - an apparatus for combining said personal information and said picture images simultaneously.
36. (original) An apparatus for enrolling identifying data of a subject as in claim 35 wherein said combining said personal information and said picture images are on a computer memory.
37. (original) An apparatus for entering identifying data as in claim 36; wherein said apparatus purges said memory upon completion of said enrollment.
38. (currently amended) An apparatus for use by an appropriate authority to assist in locating and identifying a missing subject comprising:

[an]a kit comprising an electronic storage medium containing unique identifying indicia of the subject which is not stored by other means;

means for encrypting selected portions of the stored indicia; and

means for formatting said storage medium to enable direct entry of the stored indicia into an electronic communication system of the authority.

39. (original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 38 wherein the electronic communication system includes an email.
40. (original) The apparatus as set forth in claim 38 wherein the electronic communication system includes broadcast media.
41. (currently amended) An apparatus for providing personal information to an appropriate authority for use in identifying[locating] a missing subject as part of a search missing comprising;

[an]a kit comprising electronic storage medium storing digital physical indicia of the subject in a data format for direct computer dissemination;

means for encrypting portion of the data; and,

means for decrypting [a decryption key for] said encrypted portions; and,

means for delivering said key to the authority in advance of dissemination.

42. (currently amended) A method for organizing a search for[locating] and identifying a missing [child]individual comprising the steps of:

providing a legal guardian of the individual[child] a kit including a picture ID card of the individual[child] and a CD storing unique identifying indicia of the individual[child] including encrypted forensic indicia;

utilizing the picture ID to begin a stage one search should the individual[child] go missing;

utilizing the CD in initiate a stage 2 search, if necessary, to electronically disseminate certain identifying indicia to involved third parties; and,

utilizing a [previously supplied] decryption key to initiate a stage three search, if necessary, to electronically disseminate certain encrypted indicia of a forensic or private nature to an appropriate authority.

43. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 42 including the step of providing a streaming video and a streaming audio of the individual[child] as part of the stored indicia.
44. (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 42 including the step of providing a set of digital fingerprints of the individual[child] as part of the encrypted forensic indicia.